

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME V, No. 4

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Waterloo Revival

Fine, Growing Attendance, Big Set Up, Daily Radio Program, Some Saved Already, Great Need For Prayer

The editor, John R. Rice and family, with secretary, arrived in Waterloo Tuesday, August 2nd, about 6:00 p. m., and that night the editor preached his first sermon in the Waterloo revival. We have a house provided, are comfortably situated, and are happy.

The revival services are held in a big, three-pole tent, 62 x 118 feet, well lighted and seated, with choir arrangement to seat a little more than 100. There are two grand pianos and an orchestra to help in the music. The pastor, Dr. Robert J. Wells, has conducted a very fine pre-revival advertising campaign and the preparations have been good. The people have long expected and prayed for a great revival here.

Hear John R. Rice Daily on Three Radio Stations

Through the kindness of Brother Hilmore Cedarholm, pastor of the Family Altar Broadcast, I have the joy of preaching on a three station radio hook-up each morning. The stations are WMT, 600 kilocycles, Waterloo, Iowa; KRNT, 1320 kilocycles, Des Moines, Iowa; and KMA, 930 kilocycles, Shenandoah, Iowa. We believe that thousands of our readers will be able to get one of the stations, and the hour is 6:30 a. m. on week days and 7:30 a. m. on Sunday.

There is a very fine response from the radio services thus far. The out-of-town attendance at the revival seems to me remarkable. Sunday afternoon, for instance, we checked up on the out-of-town attendance and found people present from four states who had come to attend the revival. Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Gross came from Canton, Missouri, to spend several days in the revival. A party of six, Rev. and Mrs. Harold Day, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and two children, attended the revival for two nights and a day from Floris, Iowa, 150 miles away. From Minneapolis, Minnesota, Misses Ella Christophersoy and Ethyl Eng came to spend several days in the revival. Others were present from Chicago, Illinois; Reynolds, Illinois; Austin, Minnesota; Forest Lake, Minnesota; from Arlington, Janesville, Cedar Rapids, Hudson, LaPorte City, Tipton, Dunkerton, Marshalltown, Mount Auburn, Cedar Falls, Traer, Jesup, and Independence, Iowa. All these were present in the Sunday afternoon service and many others from out-of-town have been present in other services. This attendance from far and near

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Hear Evangelist Joe B. Rice In All Services Sunday, Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, And Over Radio Station WRR, 7:30 to 8:00

"For What Shall It Profit A Man If He Shall Gain the Whole World and Lose His Own Soul?" Subject Sunday Night, 8 P. M.

By Evangelist Joe B. Rice

Sad indeed is the plight of those who spend their time, thought, and energy on the fleeting things of this world and miss the glories of heaven.

Let every officer, teacher and member who possibly can be in their place Sunday morning at 9:30 to study the third chapter of the gospel of Luke. May our hearts be open to the riches of God's Word as we study the genealogy of Christ.

Pastor Hughes Writes About Mississippi Revival

God blessed greatly in the revival conducted by editor John R. Rice in the Navilla Baptist Church, four miles southeast of McComb, Mississippi, from July 4th to the 21st. There were 268 people who came forward, conversions and reclamations, according to those who kept count. We closed on Thursday night and returned to Dallas Friday, July 22.

Pastor Robert Hughes writes the following about the revival which we are glad to have.

"July 26, 1938
"Dear Brother Rice:

"The following is the account you asked me to send to you.

"During the revival seventy-five joined Navilla Baptist Church; fifty-six joined by baptism, nineteen by letter. Four of the fifty-six had already been baptized but not saved until they met the Lord during the meeting. However, these are not all of the conversions or additions to the church: six churches that I know of besides Navilla Baptist Church have received members.

"Not only in giving us new members did God bless us through the revival, but in attendance as well His blessings are seen. Sunday after the meeting closed Thursday, the Sunday School was one and a half times as large as usual, and more Bibles, as I remember, were brought: that night we had to put extra seats in the church as we did during the meeting (on Sunday morning, he means), and not only were the new members and rededicated Christians there, but many visitors and people who have not been coming to church. It seems to be a repetition of Luke 8:35, 'Then, they went out to see what was done.' People have become conscious of God, and are seeking Him. The Christians are anxious to go to the county farm, the county jail, hospitals, and other places to carry the gospel: men are talking about Jesus Christ in the box factory at Fernwood, the mills in McComb, etc. Many of the new converts are doing personal work where they make their

"The Unchanging Goodness of God" will be the theme at the 11 o'clock service.

Let your burdens and your cares slip away and let us find new strength, assurance and comfort as we count out blessings, talk of the unchanging goodness of God.

Let every one who loves the Lord pray for these services and for the work of the church in the absence of the pastor.

Verbal Inspiration

OR, HOW TRUE IS THE BIBLE?

BY JOHN R. RICE

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"—II Tim. 3:16.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"—II Peter 1:21.

How true is the Bible? What a

queer question to ask! And yet there are people who claim to be Christians who believe that the Bible is partly true and partly false.

Some say that the Bible is inspired in the same sense that great literature is inspired like the plays of Shakespeare or the poems of Tennyson and Browning. Such people sometimes say, "I know the Bible is inspired because it inspires me." Really they mean that the Bible is not the infallible Word of God but that it is a good inspiring book, even though it has mistakes. Some say that God gave the general thought and left it to men to write it down so that of necessity there would be some slight errors. Some say that the New Testament is authoritative and true, but the Old Testament is imperfect and is simply a survival of primitive religious thinking. Some so-called scholars who are not scholars enough to know what the Bible claims for itself, nor the evidence that it is true, teach a so-called "progressive revelation" and say that none of the Bible is reliable but the very words of Jesus and they doubt many of the statements of the gospels. Many good men are deceived by these theorists and quote them. Some people say that the Bible contains the Word of God but is not all the Word of God. If one must find for himself or depend upon some modernistic scholar to say just how much of the Bible is really the Word of God and authoritative, of course no two living men, on that plan, would perfectly agree as to what was true and what was not.

Some good men very foolishly say that the Bible is inspired and reliable for religious knowledge but

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Which Strengtheneth Me" — Phil. 4:13.

"Soldier, soldier, fighting in the world's great strife

On thyself relying, battling for thy life,

Trust thyself no longer,

Trust to Christ — He's stronger;

I can all things, all things do,

Through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

"In your daily duty, standing up for right,

Are you sometimes weary, hearts not always light?

Doubt your Saviour never,

This your motto ever:

I can all things, all things do,

Through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

"In a world of trouble, tempted oft to stray,

You need never stumble, Satan cannot stay,

Will but tempt you vainly,

If you tell him plainly:

I can all things, all things do,

Through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

"Jesus' power is boundless, boundless as the sea,

He is always able, able to keep me —

Power bring from weakness,

Glory from my meekness.

I can all things, all things do,

Through Christ, which strengtheneth me."

(Brought from India by Clifford Lewis,
Printed in "The Fellowship News")

living.

"God blessed us financially, too. I mention this, not to boast of any material gain the church has received, but to praise Him who gives all blessings.

"Best of all, it seems that many of the blessings are going to be permanent in the lives of many who received them. It looks as if they are going to 'stick.' Two carloads of people from our church have already definitely planned to come to your Thanksgiving Bible School. More are trying to make definite plans now. Several from McComb have already done so. But, thank the good Lord, we may see you, Brother Rice, before the Bible School — if Jesus comes!

(Signed) "Rev. Robert Hughes

13 FORWARD IN WATERLOO REVIVAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 10th

In a phone message Wednesday night after the service, the editor said that there were thirteen forward in that night's services. We praise the Lord for His blessings, and Christians are urged to pray for the revival.

"What Is Wrong With The Movies," 117 Page Book Now Printing, Offered Free With Two Subscriptions

By the Editor

We returned the page proof of our brand new book, "What Is Wrong With The Movies" to the Zondervan Publishing House, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last Thursday, August 4th. With small corrections, it is now coming off the press. The two-colored cover is yet to be printed and applied, and the book will be ready to deliver soon, God willing. There are 117 pages and 10 strong chapters showing the terrible influence for evil of the movies.

We believe that ten thousand copies of this book should be distributed in a few weeks' time. God put it on my heart to write it. The first sermon on the subject in Dallas created remarkable interest. Thousands of people wanted the first article printed on the subject in *The Sword of the Lord*. From all over the nation the mail came asking me to print it in book form. One pastor asked for two hundred copies, and others asked for hundreds of copies, though they did not know at the time it would be as large as it is.

I am anxious to do all I can to get out the message, so I am offering absolutely free with two yearly subscriptions for *The Sword of the Lord* this brand new book. Send one dollar with names and address-

es of two people to receive *The Sword of the Lord* one year each, or send one name and address, to receive *The Sword of the Lord* two years, either new or renewal. Tell us where to send the book and it will be sent postpaid absolutely free with the two paid yearly subscriptions.

Remember that the book is not a tract, but 117 regular book size pages, printed on nice book paper, with a two-color cover, published by a national publishing concern. It will be distributed widely over all United States. Every preacher needs it. Every parent needs it. Every teacher and worker with children and young people ought to have this book. I am so certain that the demand for it will be great that I have insisted that the publishers keep the metal and prepare for a second edition and they have agreed to do so.

Send as many subscriptions as you will and for every two one-year subscriptions we will send a free book, "What Is Wrong With The Movies." Write names and addresses plainly and tell where to send each book. The subscriptions will be enrolled at once and the movie book will be sent as soon as possible.

Be our partner in this blessed work. Can we count on you?

VERBAL INSPIRATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

is not necessarily true in scientific matters, or in history.

The greatest saints, Bible scholars, preachers and soul winners have believed the Bible the infallible, verbally inspired Word of God.

My mother believed that the Bible was absolutely the Word of God, true in every particular. So did my father, a country Baptist preacher, and so, I feel sure, did the mothers and fathers of most who read these words. Devout Christians through the ages have accepted the Bible for what it claims to be, the very Word of God, true in every particular. And that is true of the most scholarly Christians, the greatest preachers, the Spirit-filled soul winners most greatly used of God through the centuries. Charles H. Spurgeon prepared and signed with six of his brethren what he called, "A Confession" and therein declared, "We... avow our firmest belief in the verbal inspiration of all Holy Scripture as originally given. To us, the Bible does not merely contain the Word of God, but is the Word of God. From beginning to end, we accept it, believe it, and continue to preach it. To us, the Old Testament is no less inspired than the New, the Book is an organic whole." B. H. Carroll, a great Southern Baptist preacher, founder of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, certainly the greatest theologian Southern Baptists have had, said that "any talk about revelation without inspiration of the Words is fool's talk," and wrote a whole book (Inspiration of the Bible; Revell) to prove that the Bible was inspired word for word. Moody and Torrey, greatest soul winners that America has seen, believed in the word-for-word inspiration of the Bible, and the Moody Bible Institute statement of faith still states that belief in verbal inspiration. The Irish Baptist statement of faith avows belief in verbal or word for word inspiration of the Bible. So do the statements of faith of Wheaton College, the most prominent and influential Christian college in America; the statements of faith of practically all the Bible institutes and of many great Seminaries. Wesley, Finney, A. J. Gordon, Chapman, Sunday, the greatest of soul winners, believed

like Moody, Spurgeon and Torrey in the word for word inspiration of the Bible. The late Dr. I. M. Haldeman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of New York, in his own trembling hand wrote me his profound conviction that God gave the very words and quoted Isaiah 51: 16, "I have put my words in thy mouth" to prove it. Dr. W. B. Riley and all the leaders of the World's Christian Fundamentals Association believe in verbal or word for word inspiration of the Bible and have so declared themselves. Dr. L. R. Scarborough, president of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and President of the Southern Baptist Convention, has declared his belief in verbal inspiration of the Bible (Introduction to B. H. Carroll's book, "Inspiration of the Bible"). Those who believe the Bible to be literally and infallibly the Word of God, reliable and exactly true in every detail, are in good company. They agree with the great saints of God throughout the ages.

Bible Itself Explicitly Claims to Be The Infallible Word of God

Those who have foolish theories about mistakes and inaccuracies in the Bible deny the very Word of God itself. Either the Bible is what it claims to be, the eternal and infallible and perfect Word of God or it is an imposture. The Bible claims perfection, claims that it is settled in heaven, claims that it is true from the beginning, claims that it is made up of the very words of God, that even every jot or tittle was given by inspiration and will not pass away, claims that men will be judged by whether they take from or add to the very words of the Scripture. There are only two honest and intelligent positions to take. 1. That the Bible is what it claims to be, dictated by the mouth of God, the infallible and perfect Word of God that cannot be broken, and the other is that the Bible is merely the work of men, claiming to be what it is not, that the Bible is false and not true, and with no binding authority on mankind, no direct and authoritative revelation from God. However, on further investigation there will be found only one position for the person who is both spiritually honest and intelligent and that is that the Bible is all it claims to be, actually the Word of God, proving itself on every point as a miraculously inspired, divine revelation.

Notice what the Bible says about itself:

"The law of the Lord is perfect." (Psa. 19:7).

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psa. 119: 89).

"Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psa. 119: 160).

"The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Notice that the above Scriptures plainly claim that the Bible is perfect (specifically the Old Testament and more specifically the law, including the Genesis account of creation, the flood, and countless miracles). These Scriptures claim that the Word of God is "true from the beginning," that is, from the very first word of Genesis. They claim that the Word of God is settled forever in Heaven, that is, that it is divine and eternal instead of being human and fallible and subject to being displaced by later findings of science. The Bible even claims that "the Scripture cannot be broken" which is simply another way of saying it claims absolute infallibility.

II Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." And even in the Revised Version which modernists quote here, it really means exactly the same thing. "All scripture that is inspired of God is profitable for doctrine, reproof," etc., simply means

that all the writings or books in the canon of our Bible, being divinely inspired, are reliable and infallible for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

And II Peter 1:21 says:

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

The Bible was not written by men of their own choice nor from their own sources but this is the way the Bible came; "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." That claims divine inspiration for everything in the Scriptures. And notice particularly that this claim is made primarily for the Old Testament which is usually attacked by modernists and unbelievers! The Genesis account of creation, the story of the flood, the plagues in Egypt, the miracles of crossing the Red Sea under Moses and crossing the flooded Jordan under Joshua, of the fall of Jericho and the conquest of Canaan, of the sun standing still in the Heavens about the space of a day — all these accounts were written by holy men of God who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Literally hundreds of times in the Bible the writers say that "The word of the Lord came to Moses and to Aaron, saying..." or "Thus saith the Lord" or "Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying..." or "For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me," etc. I say many hundreds of times, as often as scores of times in one book such statements are given, CLAIMING TO GIVE DIRECT QUOTATION OF WORDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD! It is impossible to believe what the Bible says about itself and not accept it as the very Word of God, inspired word for word.

What We Mean By Verbal Inspiration

What did Spurgeon and Moody and Torrey and Carroll and Haldeman and Scarborough and the Bible institutes and multitudes of Christians mean — what do they mean when they say they believe in the "verbal inspiration" of the Bible? Verbal inspiration means word inspiration. They mean that God gave the very words to the writers that they were to write down. God did not give the general thought and allow the human authors to put the thought in their own words. God did not simply leave them to search out the sources, talk with eye-witnesses, copy from old records and so write the Bible. God did not simply superintend the writing so that the writers would be kept from error. No, by verbal inspiration we mean that God gave the words in the Bible. Of course we do not mean that God gave the words in English as they are in our King James or Authorized Version of the Bible. We mean that God gave the words as the original writers wrote them down, the Old Testament writers writing generally in Hebrew, the New Testament writers writing in Greek (parts of Daniel were written in the Chaldean language). In the original manuscripts the very words were the words of God.

Of course copyists occasionally made mistakes in copying by hand the Scriptures. But we have so many hundreds of manuscripts of both the Old and New Testaments that by comparing them we find there is not over one word in ten thousand of the original manuscripts that cannot be reproduced as it was first given in the original languages. And so many earnest scholars have made so many careful translations of the Bible in our own language, through hundreds of years of time, that we can depend with confidence upon our English translations of the Bible.

Remember, however, that when we speak of verbal inspiration we mean that God gave the very words

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Waterloo Revival

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shows a deep hunger for a revival on the part of devout Christians through this whole section. It also shows the unusual interest in the Family Altar Broadcast which has built up a fine circle of hearers through the splendid work of Mr. Cedarholm and his assistant, Brother Wesley Egan. I count it a special privilege to be on the Family Altar Broadcast as well as to be in this revival with Dr. Robert J. Wells and the Burton Avenue Baptist Church.

Missionaries to Africa, Rev. Virgil Moneysmith and Mrs. Moneysmith who are to return in a few days to France for language study and a little later to French Equatorial Africa, were in the services throughout the day Sunday. They are sent out by the Burton Avenue Baptist Church. Their presence and their testimonies were a benediction to all who heard them. Burton Avenue Baptist Church furnished them a new Chevrolet truck and other equipment and is paying for their upkeep. They are associated with Mid-Missions.

I should mention also my gratitude for the fine fellowship with Rev. Maynard R. Rogers of the Hagerman Baptist Church, Rev. P. B. Chenault of the large Walnut Street Baptist Church, and a number of other pastors who have attended the revival. It was a joy to speak to the united fisherman's clubs (soul winning bands of men) from a good many of the churches last Friday night at a supper, before they attended the revival in a body. And the coming Saturday night I am to speak to the men of Walnut Street Baptist Church. We expect to have Brother Chenault with us, God willing, at a Bible School in Dallas next spring.

God's Power Beginning to Work

Thus far we have only given public invitation in the revival twice. Sunday night nine or ten came forward to claim Christ as Saviour, perhaps two of those were

backsliders and the remainder were new converts. They came with tears and deep seriousness and the entire audience that comfortably filled the big tent was deeply moved by the Holy Spirit's power as I preached on "Christ Crucified in Waterloo in 1938" and depicted the crucifixion scene with various characters watching Jesus on the cross. Sunday morning there were three professions of faith, two of them standing openly and publicly to claim Christ without the usual invitation with song. Friday night there were three conversions, a young man and his wife who came to Christ in tears, and a little girl.

The responsibility here is great. A great revival here would be felt throughout the state of Iowa and beyond, through the radio services and the wide out-of-town attendance. Satan does not want us to have a revival. My heart is deeply burdened about it and I plead with all the readers of *The Sword of the Lord* to give some time in earnest prayer every day. You have been blessed, we trust, by *The Sword of the Lord* and you have reaped many times where you have not sown. I believe it is only right that every reader of *The Sword of the Lord* should feel the burden for this big campaign and pray that God will save literally hundreds of souls. There is much modernism and unbelief in all this territory. Oh, that God would show His mighty power in reviving Christians and saving sinners and building up churches! We believe that God will do it. If a revival comes it will come only by the undeserved mercy of God whose great grace allows Him to use unworthy, inadequate servants to His own glory.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." If you join in the sowing and reaping you will have a right to rejoice in the reaping which we expect to report in this paper, God willing.

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VERBAL INSPIRATION

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originally to the Bible writers and as they put them down in the original manuscripts the very words were the words of God. That means that the Bible is the infallible word of God, reliable in religion, reliable and perfectly accurate in science, infallibly correct in history, true in every particular. "The law of the Lord is perfect." "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." "Thy word is true from the beginning."

Examples of Verbal Inspiration

Even a casual reading of the Bible shows some remarkable examples of verbal inspiration. Later we will prove that every word in the original Scriptures was dictated by God, but first let us give some outstanding examples.

1. The Ten Commandments were given by the voice of God speaking aloud from Mount Sinai. Exodus 20:1, preceding the Ten Commandments, says, "And God spake all these words, saying . . ." Then in verse 22 in the same chapter we are told,

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven."

There cannot be any possible doubt that here, according to the Bible, we have the very words of God in the Ten Commandments.

2. Balaam's ass spake by verbal inspiration. Sometimes smart men try to insist that God gave the thought but that man put it in his own words. Or they claim that men were so exalted in spirit and were guarded by the Holy Spirit that they wrote without any physical miracle with fair accuracy. All this reasoning of man's wisdom falls away, however, when you consider how God used a donkey to give his message to Balaam. In Numbers 22:28-30 we are told how the Lord opened the mouth of the ass and she spake to Balaam. That is a clear case of verbal or word for word inspiration since donkeys do not have words of their own.

3. But God deals with men just

as He does with donkeys in the matter of inspiration. The case of Caiaphas is very similar. In John 11:49-52 we read this remarkable passage.

"And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."

"And this spake he not of himself; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;"

"And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad."

Caiaphas was a wicked, unconverted man, helping to crucify Jesus. He was not exalted into a high state of spiritual perception. He was not speaking out of his own knowledge. In fact, we can be certain that Caiaphas meant something entirely different from what God meant. Caiaphas simply thought, "We had better kill Jesus and keep the nation from falling under the wrath of Rome so we priests can keep our jobs." But God meant it as a prophetic and verbally inspired statement of the blood atonement of Jesus for the sins of the whole world. Certainly and without any shadow of doubt or any other possible explanation, that was word-for-word inspiration. God gave the very words.

4. And God used this same kind of inspiration many times so that those who wrote it down word for word did not fully understand even what they said. They did not fully understand the thought God gave, they did not select the words but simply wrote down what God says as is proven by I Peter 1:10-12.

"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you;

"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

Notice these very prophets "who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you," inquired and searched diligently in their own prophecies, in the Scriptures they themselves had written, "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." These prophets searched their own writings, earnestly desiring to find out what the Holy Spirit meant when He, the Holy Spirit, testified through their pen of the first and second coming of Christ and such other matters written down in the Bible!

These human writers of the Bible knew (vs. 12), had it revealed to them from God, that they were simply agents ministering to us and not unto themselves the things which the Holy Ghost gave them to write down.

It cannot possibly be said then, that the inspiration spoken of here was anything but verbal or word-for-word inspiration. They did not know what they were writing about when they wrote. They did not understand even the thought in the mind of God, how could they know what words to use? They did not select either the thoughts or the words. They simply wrote down what the Holy Spirit said write. And then they searched and inquired diligently, trying to find out the meaning of the Scripture which they had written. And so precious was the word of God thus inspired, so far beyond the possibility of any human being giving it of Himself, that even the angels desire to look into these things!

Certainly then verbal inspiration is plausible, nay, is absolutely essential in any reliable revelation from God.

Paul Says That Revelation Is Given "In The Words Which The Holy Ghost Teacheth"

The Bible so often claims word for word inspiration that it is only proven ignorance for a child of God not to know the Bible doctrines of inspiration. I will show you how Paul, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, David, John, and our Lord Jesus Christ all explicitly and expressly stated that God gave the very words of the Bible.

Some men have said, "We know that the Bible is inspired but we do not know the method of inspiration." Well, one who does not know the method of divine inspiration simply has not read or does not believe the Bible, for the Bible leaves no doubt about how it was written.

In I Corinthians, chapter 2, Paul gives us detailed explanation about divine revelation. In verse 7 he declares:

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory."

Divine revelation is about mysterious and hidden things of God that man cannot naturally know. Verses 9 and 10 continue:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

The Holy Spirit is God's agent in getting the Bible written. The men who wrote down the things in the Bible did not write what eye had seen nor what ear had heard, neither what entered in through natural sources into the heart of men, we are told. But the things written down in the Bible, all of them, "God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (vs. 10). It is foolish then to give any credit

to men who wrote the Bible because they were eye-witnesses or as if they copied from other manuscripts or as if they got their information from others. No, the things in the Bible "God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit." The Holy Spirit is the true Author of the Bible. Each Bible writer was directly inspired and wrote down what the Holy Spirit gave. Now the only remaining question is, how did He get the words to write down what God revealed?

The matter of the words in which the Bible was written is explained in verse 13 of that 2nd chapter of I Corinthians:

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

The Holy Spirit gave the matter of inspiration and then not relying on man's wisdom the Holy Spirit taught the very words in which revelation was to be written down. The Bible was written, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." And the Revised Version makes it even clearer, saying, "Not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; COMBINING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL WORDS." The matter in the Bible is Spirit-given matter, revealed in every detail by the Holy Ghost. The words in the Bible are likewise spiritual words, that is, Spirit-given words. God could not say it plainer, the Holy Spirit dictated the very words in which divine revelation was given. The words of the Bible are God's words, not man's. In the original manuscripts the human authors simply wrote down the words that the Holy Spirit gave them. Sometimes they understood what they wrote. Sometimes they certainly did not understand and searched diligently in their own writings to see what the Holy Spirit meant by the things He said as we have seen from I Peter 1:9-11. THE WORDS ARE GOD'S WORDS!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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VERBAL INSPIRATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

The Slur of Modernists About "Mechanical Dictation"

Modernists and unbelievers always want to exalt man and belittle God. They make man's sins small so they can minimize the grace of God and the need for blood atonement. The constant tendency of modernism is to have a great man and a little Christ. Even in their theories of inspiration they want to exalt man and belittle the supernatural and miraculous element. So modernists love to deride what they call the "mechanical dictation" theory of inspiration. Nevertheless, according to the Scripture, God's method of inspiration is literally dictation of the very words. But why slur dictation as "mechanical?" I am dictating this article just now after long, long months of study, after hours of prayer, with most carefully prepared thoughts and exactly selected words. I am earnestly, fervently, with the gravest concern, giving the very words to my stenographer. The thoughts are my thoughts, and not the stenographers. The words are my words, not the stenographer's words. I am dictating the very words and yet there is nothing mechanical about it. That term "mechanical dictation" is simply the slur of unbelievers at the miraculous exactness and perfection of God's divine revelation to man.

The varying style in the books of the Bible is not the style respectively of various authors, but the style of the Holy Spirit adapted to God's own purpose. I have three stenographers with varying qualifications. For certain types of work I select one stenographer. For other types of work I select another. One is more exact on Scripture references and quotations. Another stenographer understands a little better the finer shades of language, and the third has difficulty with hard words. I use them according to my own purpose but the style is not the style of the stenographer, it is my own. The words are my words. Even so God Himself, having an infinite variety to choose from, chose such men as pleased Him, used the language that pleased Him in each case, but in each case

dictated the very words. Again I say, the words are the words of God, not the words of men. The Bible does teach that revelation came by word for word inspiration.

And why should it not be so? If I am so meticulously careful about the wording of this article, would the infinite God care less about His perfect Word, His revelation to all mankind to last forever? Since God could give the words, how foolish it is to suppose that He did not do that. If I am careful to give the very words, the punctuation, then surely a merciful, all-wise God would be equally careful, nay, many times more careful that His own thoughts and revelation to mankind be stated in divine words exactly according to His will. My stenographers do not always understand what they write down so I could not trust them to select the words. The prophets of God did not fully understand what they wrote down and could not have put God's perfect thought in human words with any reliable accuracy.

And incidentally, my verbal inspiration of this article does not extend to the linotyping of the printer, since I do not read the proof, just as God's verbal inspiration does not imply perfection in every detail of translation. You will get the article perfectly except for any minor errors of the printer.

Moses Given The Law By Verbal Inspiration

The principle of verbal inspiration was given in I Corinthians 2:13. That verse alone ought to settle that all of God's divine revelation was given in the words "which the Holy Ghost teacheth." But to make the assurance doubly sure let us follow through the Bible and see how various human authors of the Bible were given the very words of God.

The writings of Moses are attacked more often than any other part of the Bible as being not accurate, not scientifically true, etc. So-called scientists attack the Genesis account of creation. Modernists do not believe in these miracles; the flood, the plagues in Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the manna which fell for forty years in the wilderness, etc. Ingersoll liked to talk about "the mistakes of Moses" and unbelievers cannot believe, they say, that God created the earth in six days. So these who with unbelieving, rebellious hearts criticize the first five books in the Bible, claim that it is not perfectly inspired, that it is made up of legends, that is, it is the work of many authors, that it contains many "survivals of primitive religious thinking," etc. But we are not left in the dark about the method of inspiration of these books of Moses. In Exodus 24:3-8 we are told how Moses wrote down the books ascribed to him. Notice particularly the following phrases and sentences in that passage:

"And Moses came and told the people ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD, and all the judgments; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, ALL THE WORDS WHICH THE LORD HATH SAID will we do..."

"And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people..."

"... Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning ALL THESE WORDS."

It could not be more clearly stated that Moses told the people "ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD," that the people agreed to follow "ALL THE WORDS WHICH THE LORD HATH SAID" and that when Moses wrote the book he wrote "ALL THE WORDS OF THE LORD." The covenant which God made with Israel was "concerning all these WORDS." What Moses wrote were the very words of the Lord. The Holy Spirit gave His revelation to Moses by verbal, or word-for-word inspiration. One who does not believe Genesis or Exodus, for example, is inspired like the writings of Jesus, is simply denying the plain statements of the Bible.

No wonder then that throughout the gospels Jesus referred continually to Genesis, quoting from

it and confirming it repeatedly. Jesus believed in the Genesis account of creation of man (Matt. 19:4-6). He believed in the literal, miraculous destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire from Heaven (Luke 17:28-32). He believed also the Genesis account of the flood (Luke 17:26, 27). The books of the law were written by verbal inspiration and must be accepted as absolutely accurate by those who claim to believe the Bible at all and to be followers of Christ. It is either verbal inspiration or rank infidelity. There is no intelligent and true middle ground.

Incidentally Jesus also expressly declared that Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale just like the book of Jonah says (Matt. 12:40). If you do not believe that the events chronicled in the book of Jonah literally occurred, then you do not believe in the deity of Jesus Christ nor in the inspiration of the book of Matthew where Jesus approved the book of Jonah as correct.

(Continued Next Week)

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